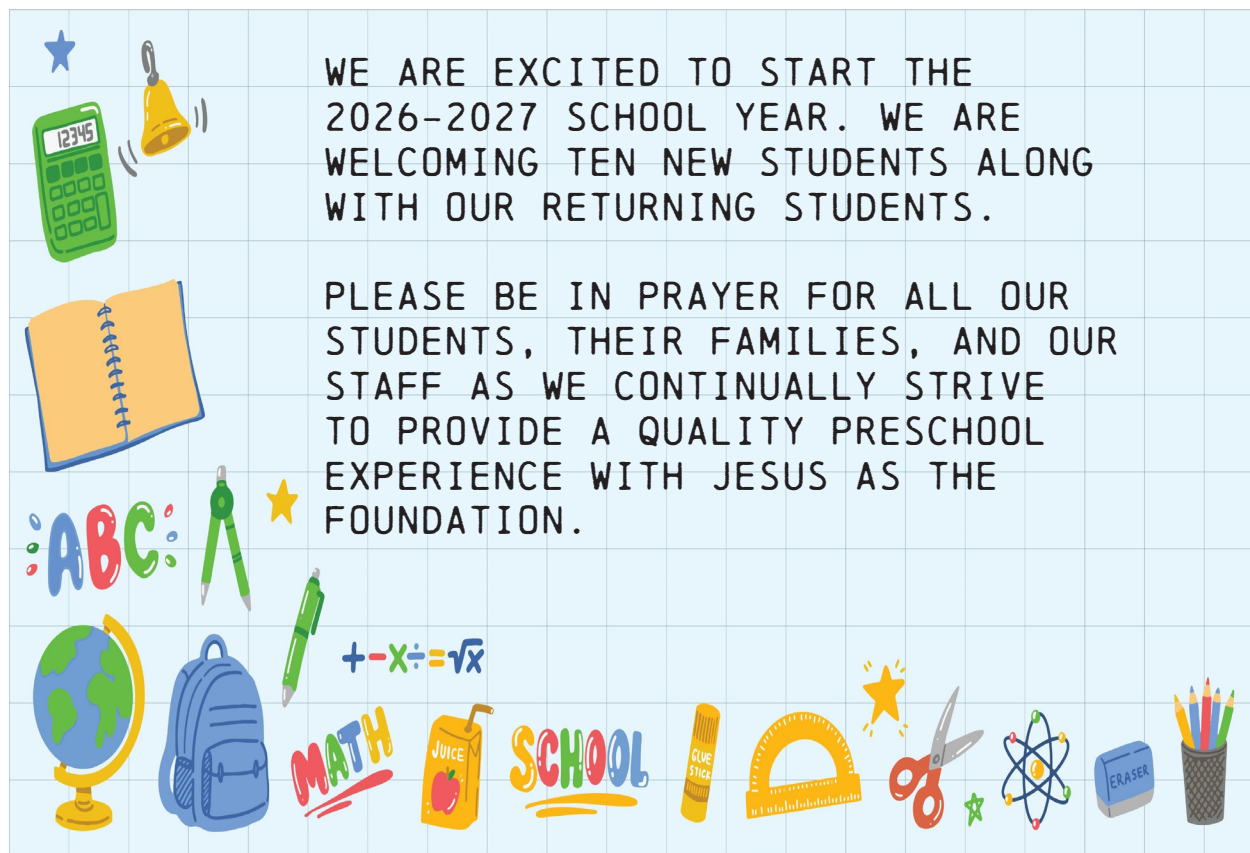




WE ARE EXCITED TO START THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR. WE ARE WELCOMING TEN NEW STUDENTS ALONG WITH OUR RETURNING STUDENTS.

PLEASE BE IN PRAYER FOR ALL OUR STUDENTS, THEIR FAMILIES, AND OUR STAFF AS WE CONTINUALLY STRIVE TO PROVIDE A QUALITY PRESCHOOL EXPERIENCE WITH JESUS AS THE FOUNDATION.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER
 7:00 AM - 5:30 PM Monday - Friday
 PRESCHOOL AGES 3-5
 ANN SMITH, Director 455-8642

Celebrating
56
YEARS

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Highland Baptist
 Connect, Grow, Serve, Go
THE CONNECTION AUGUST 2026

One of the first questions we ask when adversity comes is, “What do I do now?” We instinctively begin looking for solutions. We make phone calls. We search for advice. We try to figure out who has influence, who has resources, or who can help us fix the situation. There’s certainly nothing wrong with using the wisdom and opportunities God provides, but if prayer is our last response instead of our first, then we’ve missed the greatest privilege God has given us, and that changes everything. We have the great freedom of prayer, and the early church understood this. They had very little political influence, no great wealth, and no earthly power. But they possessed something far greater; they knew how to pray. Their confidence wasn’t in their circumstances; it was in their God. That’s still true today.

When God’s people bow their heads, the world often shrugs its shoulders. The skeptic may dismiss prayer as a crutch for weak people. The intellectual may mock it as wishful thinking. But there is one being who never laughs when a Christian begins to pray, and that’s Satan. He understands what many believers forget—that prayer moves the heart of God and unleashes His power according to His perfect will. As the old statement says, “Satan trembles when he sees the weakest saint upon his knees.” I sometimes wonder what God might do if His people spent less time worrying about their problems and more time bringing them before Him in prayer. How many burdens would be lifted? How many families would be restored? How many prodigals would come home? How many churches would experience revival?

One of the greatest freedoms you possess as a believer is one that no government can take away, no employer can prohibit, and no circumstance can remove. You have constant access to your heavenly Father. There may come a day when doors close around you. Your health may fail, friends may disappoint you, opportunities may disappear. You may feel isolated, misunderstood, or completely helpless. But there’s one door that never closes. It’s the throne room of God. Hebrews 4:16 reminds us that we can “with confidence draw near to the throne of grace.” That invitation is always open. There are many believers who’ve been confined to hospital beds or nursing homes, unable to do many of the things they once enjoyed. Yet they still possess one of the most powerful ministries on earth: they can pray. Their bodies may be limited, but their access to God is unlimited.

Continued on the next page

The enemy can create obstacles, but he can't silence a praying believer. He may attack your finances, your health, your family, or your emotions, but he can't stop you from calling on the Lord. Sometimes we hear people say, "Well, they don't allow prayer here anymore." The truth is, no one can stop you from praying. You can pray while driving to work, walking down a hallway, sitting quietly at your desk, in a classroom before a test, in a waiting room before surgery, beside a hospital bed, or in the middle of a sleepless night. Prayer isn't limited to a church building or a particular posture. It's simply the heart of a believer reaching out to the heart of God.

Jesus said in Mark 11:25, "Whenever you stand praying..." In other words, prayer should become the atmosphere in which we live, not just an activity we occasionally do. Far too often we treat prayer like a spare tire; we only use it when we're stranded. Or like the emergency brake on a vehicle, we only pull it when everything else has failed. God never intended prayer to be our last resort. He intended it to be our first response. Every burden, every decision, every fear, and every need ought to drive us first to our knees.

The freedom to pray is one of God's greatest gifts. The question isn't whether you have that freedom. The question is whether you're taking advantage of it.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Jim

Deacon of the Week

August 1-7	Bradley Rogers
August 8-14	Ben Murray
August 15-21	Rick Miller
August 22-28	Paco Prince
Aug. 29-Sept. 4	Jason Robison
September 5-11	Jonathan Sipe

Greeters – August 2026

- August 2 – Jimmy/ Kristy
- August 9– Johnny/ Gayle/ Brian
- August 16 – David/ Diane
- August 23 – Samantha/ Linda/ Kathy
- August 30 – Keith/ Ramona

HBC Deacon Family Assignments 2025-2026	
Group	Deacon
A-BO	Roger Williams
BR-DOU	Stan Smith
DUN-F	Steve Conner
GA-HEN	Jimmy Gaddis
HES-JOR	Bradley Rogers
KI-MOF	Ben Murray
MON-RAY	Rick Miller
RID-SM	Paco Prince
SN-V	Jason Robison
W-Y	Jonathan Sipe
DEACONS	Mark Smith

Ready to Start Being a Blessing to Your Neighbors?

Scan this QR Code to get signed up!

Join our community of Lights today and begin using BLESS to transform your neighborhood with the love of Jesus Christ.
Or call the church office and we'll get you signed up!

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play

MISSIONS PROJECT FOR AUGUST

CHRISTMAS BACKPACK

Share the Good News. Share the Love.

Did you know that nearly **1 in 5** kids in Tennessee live in poverty?

You can make a difference in a child's life by giving the gift of a **Christmas backpack**!

TOYS

- Small cars
- Balls
- Dolls
- Stuffed animals
- Yo-yos

HYGIENE ITEMS

- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Soap
- Shampoo
- Hairbrush

OTHER

- Christian books
- Sunglasses
- Watches
- Flashlights (with extra batteries)

FOOD

- Canned food with pop-tops
- Protein bars
- Hard candy (no chocolate)
- Gum

CLOTHING

- T-shirts
- Socks
- Warm hat
- Gloves
- Fleece pullover

ADDITIONAL IDEAS
for older kids (11-17)

GIRLS

- Lip gloss
- Jewelry
- Journals

BOYS

- LEGO®
- Hand-held games
- Sports ball

NEW

The items **should be new** and should not include any food items that are perishable or easily crushed, no knives, and no used or unwanted items.

Limit school supplies to a minimum since this is for Christmas and make sure the item you're purchasing will **fit in a 17" backpack**.

Thank you for helping share the Good News and bringing hope this Christmas!

Let the little children come to me... for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." MATTHEW 19:14

VOLUNTEERS

Needed!

Join our Ministry Center Team

FRIDAYS IN JUNE
9:00 AM – 11:30 AM

MINISTRY CENTER

PROVIDE BATHROOM FACILITIES

OFFER WATER

SHARE THE GOSPEL IN CONVERSATION

SIGN-UP ON THE BULLETIN BOARD OUTSIDE THE CHURCH OFFICES

Thank you for serving with love!

Highland Baptist Church
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Email: highlandbaptist@cafes.net
Church Phone: (931) 455-0645 Fax: 393-0440

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 - JIM NORMAN
 - MATT KOEHLER
 - JIMMY GADDIS
 - KATHY HASTY
 - AMY JACKSON
 - ANN SMITH
 - MIKE STRINGFIELD
- SENIOR PASTOR
 - MINISTER OF YOUTH & EDUCATION
 - FACILITIES MANAGER
 - NURSERY DIRECTOR
 - OFFICE MANAGER
 - DIRECTOR - CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER
 - VOLUNTEER MUSIC DIRECTOR

In August, our little ones will be learning about the plan God has for His creation and the families He created. The LORD has a wonderful plan for each of us!

August Nursery Volunteers

Nursery Director – Kathy Hasty – If you are not able to serve on your assigned date then please contact Kathy Hasty.

Sunday August 2:

Bible Study: Kelly Farris

Morning Worship: Kim Dodson, Kelly Farris, Leah Prince

Evening Worship: Samantha Norman, Kathy Hasty

Sunday August 9:

Bible Study: Liz Bond

Morning Worship: Kim Dodson, Phil & Traci Henderson

Evening Worship: Rema Bell, Kathy Hasty

Sunday August 16:

Bible Study: David Inocencio

Morning Worship: Kim Dodson, David Inocencio, Kathy Hasty

Evening Worship: Linda Bolinger, Kathy Hasty

Sunday August 23:

Bible Study: Liz and Lauren

Morning Worship: Kim Dodson, Lauren Fults, Linda Bolinger

Evening Worship: Terri Stone, Kathy Hasty

Sunday August 30:

Bible Study: David Inocencio

Morning Worship: Kim Dodson, Rick Miller, Kathy Hasty

Evening Worship: Linda Bolinger, Kathy Hasty

School is back in session, and life only seems to get busier. With so much going on, we can easily find ourselves running around town thinking about what needs to be done next. The car ride from one thing to another can become monotonous. Use those car rides as moments of discipleship with your kids and to pray when you are alone. Ask your child how you can pray for them, maybe a player on their team, or a friend at school. Even ask if they would like to start a prayer, and you can finish it. They might say no, but stay consistent, and they might one day say yes. Keep a daily devotional book in your car and have one of the kids read it while driving to the next event. Let it create topics of discussion. If you need ideas on a devotional book, let me know. I would be glad to point you to a few that could work well. Discipleship can happen anywhere, but what is needed is intentionality. Don't use the Bible as a hammer but as a compass to give direction.

14 I rejoice in the way revealed by your decrees as much as in all riches.

15 I will meditate on your precepts and think about your ways. 16 I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word. – Psalm 119:14-16

There will be a Youth Parent meeting on August 30th at 4 pm. This will be for both new and current youth parents.

If you have a child in the Preschool or Children's Sunday school class, I want to let you know that we will be using a new curriculum starting in September. It's a curriculum from Right Now Media called God's Kids. If you scan this QR code, it will lead you to download the Parent app that will give you ways to follow up with your child throughout the week. It will already have questions and insights on starting the conversation about the lesson they learned that Sunday.

Matt Koehler

Minister of Youth & Education

A promotional graphic for the 'God's Kids' curriculum. It features a dark blue background with the 'God's Kids' logo in a stylized, bubbly font at the top left. Below the logo, the text 'God's Kids is coming to Highland Baptist Church' is written in a yellow, sans-serif font. Further down, a paragraph in white text states: 'We're launching our new kids' curriculum on September 6th. Every week, your kids will experience biblical grounded, Christ-centered lessons, and you can bring what they're learning home with you.' To the right of this text is a QR code. Below the QR code, a yellow box contains the text: 'Download the free RightNow Kids app to stay connected to what your kids are learning each week.' The graphic is decorated with several small, colorful illustrations of children and biblical figures, including a group of children in the top right, a child with a robot-like head, and a child with a large white cross on their back.

